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PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR'S COTTON.

Correspondence Cotton Plant.

In our travels over the State this summer, attending our summer series of Farmers' Institutes, we have been very much impressed with the immense increase in the cultivation of the cotton. Fewer fields are to be seen "resting" in the old way by growing up with weeds for future brown-stemming, but instead the farmers are fast learning that the best rest for the land is to keep it in a crop that will shade and protect the soil and gather fertility for succeeding crops far faster than the natural growth. Wide areas are now in peas that bore a crop of small grain, and the "Clover of the South" is covering fields that never before grew it. Many of these fields are intended for the cotton crop of next year, and as a matter of course the owners are thinking how best to use the pea crop. If they have taken our advice, so often given in the press, the peas have had a good dose of phosphoric acid and potash in some form, and where this is the case the course is plain and the cotton crop can be grown at the smallest cost if the owner simply adds the seed from this year's crop to the land. One of the most thoughtful farmers in South Carolina wrote us that he had found that in his case, being far removed from oil mills where he could exchange the seed for whole seed after being crushed to destroy germination, gave him excellent results when applied as he uses them. He found that when a mass of seed or other bulky manure was applied directly in the furrow under the cotton, there was difficulty in getting a good stand of the cotton. He found also that while the seed were a valuable fertilizer, they were slow in becoming available to the plant as food. He therefore adopted the plan of opening a furrow midway between the beds for the cotton, and there burying the seed. By the time the cotton had developed to the point of making the bloom and fruff it had decayed to an extent sufficient to enable them to yield up their plant food, and he got better crops in this way. What we must want to get at however is the best and most economical way to apply the purchased fertilizers to the cotton. We have said that where the pea crop of this year has been well supplied with phosphoric acid and potash there is better chance for next year's cotton. Experience has shown that an application of the potash fertilizers especially, some months before the planting, will show from them better results than from a direct application at the planting time. And not only this but their application to the pea crop will give a heavier crop of forage. There is nothing that the cotton farmer needs more than plenty of forage and plenty of cattle to feed it. The use of the entire growth of peas as a manure direct will undoubtedly show a greater effect on the succeeding crop than the cutting off of the growth. But the cutting and curing of the crop as hay, and the feeding of this hay to cattle, with the careful saving of the manure will do more for the farm and more than the buying of a crop worth \$200 per acre as food, three-fourths of which value can be recovered in the manure made from the feeding. Another fact in connection with the using of the whole growth is an excess of nitrogen and a lack of long limbed growth, and a late crop. The true way to use the pea crop preceding a cotton crop is to cut and cure the vines as hay, feed them to stock and return to the land the manure thus made. But what shall this man do who did not put any phosphoric acid and potash which his land was probably already deficient, and who applies fertilizers to his cotton he cannot hope for an increased crop by reason of the pea growth. He may to some extent get benefit from the peas so far as the increase of nitrogen in the soil is concerned, but while the cotton may make a ranker "weed" it will fail in the fruiting. The peas will bring him from the purchase of the most costly part of a complete fertilizer, and he will not be compelled to buy nitrogen at all, especially if he uses his cotton seed as suggested. But what shall he use when and how he apply the fertilizer? We have already remarked that it has been found that the mineral plant food in the shape of phosphoric acid and potash give better results when applied some time previous to the planting of the crop, and we know that a liberal broadcast application of these is better, not only for the improvement of the land generally, but for the crop of cotton. The experience of our South Carolina friends points to this. Few farmers realize the short time in which fertilizers applied directly in the furrow under the plants are available to the plant. The part of the roots of any plant which are engaged in collecting food are near the extreme tip of the small rootlets, and when these get beyond the area in which the food was applied and begin to forage in poorer soil, a deterioration in the growth and fruiting must result. Hence we have become must result. Let us even for the cotton crop a broadcast application is best in the final results on the crop. We would like some of our friends who have a pea stubble to go into cotton next year to try the simple experiment of applying this fall broadcast on part of the stubble all the phosphate and potash they intend for the crop. You need to buy only acid phosphate and kainit in equal proportions, for the peas, aided by the cotton seed from this year's crop, will give you an abundant supply of nitrogen. On the rest of the field apply the fertilizers at the time of planting in the furrow. I have no doubt that you will find that the acid phosphate and potash applied this fall will give you better results in the crop next year than the spring application in the furrow. And not only this, but it will enable you to get a better stand of crimson clover sown among the cotton at laying by time next summer. If you get a stand of crimson clover in the cotton field, you will have done

more for your land than in any other way, for the winter cover is worth itself an application of fertilizer, in the prevention of the wasting of the fertility in winter, while the clover will get more nitrogen for you to turn into corn next year with the aid of your home made manure. Let us put a little forethought into the economical production of a cotton crop, and get down to real farming with cotton.

W. F. MASSEY.

WHY NOT A DOG LAW?

From THE COTTON PLANT.

Col. J. Washington Watts, of Laurens County, has been raising sheep for at least three score years and when a member of the Legislature he made strenuous efforts to have a dog law passed so as to encourage the industry of sheep raising, but his efforts were in vain and his fellow members reckoned him a little daff on the question of dogs and sheep, considering their relative importance to the State. Col. Watts still believes that he was right in advocating a dog law, and has recently expressed himself as hoping that the people will yet send enough men to the Legislature with the courage of their convictions, who will pass a rigid dog law, which is indispensable to the raising of sheep, and would add millions to the incomes of our people, who would soon see the difference between five cents cotton and twenty-five cents wool. In the line of his suggestion, we copy from the Atlanta Journal the following statement of the dog and sheep situation from the pen of Mr. C. H. Jordan, whose articles are always worth reading:

It is to be hoped that the members of the general assembly will not longer treat with ridicule the introduction of a good dog law. The time has come when an imperative demand is made by the farmers of Georgia, for protection to the sheep industry of the State. Wool is today selling for thirty-seven cents per pound and there is a likelihood of an overproduction. With rapidly increasing population among the nations of the world using woolen goods, it is fair to presume that the wool industry of the country will not grow beyond a strong and healthy demand, which will exist at all seasons of the year. Aside from wool, mutton has become within the past few years a favored article of food, and the entire area of the United States is unable at the present time to produce enough mutton annually for home consumption. We found it necessary to import nearly three millions of mutton sheep alone from Canada last year, and the purchase of wool from foreign countries during the same period amounted to many millions of dollars more. So that in the sheep business we have a most profitable field for investment, and with the passage of a good dog law the farmers of Georgia, especially those in the wire-grass section, would be presented a splendid opportunity for extensive sheep raising. The mongrel cur should not be longer allowed to retard so important a branch of our farm products, and if the present Legislature refuses to give the sheep industry a helping hand, by proper legislation, then every county should make the dog law an issue in the general elections next year of the members to the general assembly, where candidates are not outspoken in their determination to meet the welfare of his State is perfectly willing to pay an annual tax of one dollar on his dog. The taxes so paid would go into the educational fund of his county, and there be expended in educating the boys and girls of his community. Thousands of worthless curs which travel the public highways after night and roam under cover of darkness about other people's premises, existing on whatever refuse they can find, would meet a fitting doom at the hands of the proper officials. We believe that hydrophobia is largely caused by poisonous substances which the half starved, unweaned dogs devour, and which the lives of valuable animals, and even that of a human being is destroyed, if unfortunately happening to cross the pathway of these maddened creatures. The well fed dog loves the comfortable surroundings of his home, and is apt to be found there at the proper time defending his master's possessions from the inroads of an enemy after nightfall.

The man who pays an annual tax on his dog, aside from other considerations, is likely to regard the possession of the animal as something of more value, and will give better care and attention to the needs of his dog.

"The laughing lamb" is a curious thing which grows in Arabia and in parts of the Western frontier of Hindustan. The plant is of moderate size, with bright yellow flowers and soft velvety seed pods, each of which contains two or three seeds resembling small black beans. The natives of the district where the plant grows dry these seeds and reduce them to powder. A small dose of this powder has similar effects to those arising from the inhalation of laughing gas. It causes the soberest person to dance, shout and laugh with the boisterous excitement of a madman and to rush about, cutting the most ridiculous capers for about an hour. At the expiration of this time exhaustion sets in, and the excited person falls asleep, to wake after several hours with no recollection whatever of his antics.

The Legislature has directed that the free public schools of this State observe the third Friday in November as Arbor Day, and on that day the school officers and teachers shall conduct such exercises and engage in the planting of such plants, shrubs, and trees as will impress on the minds of the pupils the proper value and appreciation to be placed on flowers and ornamental shrubbery and shade trees.

Col. T. J. Moore on an irrigated piece of land made at the rate of 118 bushels of rice to the acre and over seven tons of straw which makes excellent feed for horses and cattle.—Carolina Spartan.

HOW TO RESTORE SOUTHERN FARM LANDS.

Tri-State Farmer and Gardener.

Having by experience during my farming operations at the North seen the wonderful recuperating effect of a clover sod towards reclaiming a worn and exhausted soil, since my advent as a farmer and fruit grower in Georgia I have been experimenting for a number of years with another branch of the legume family, the Southern cow pea. My reason for experimenting on this line was to find out for myself if the cow pea would furnish the nitrogen for any crop, and especially corn, without any other application. Ten years ago this land produced nothing but May pops (passion vines) without fertilizers. I thought that there was a possibility of producing in ten years, which I believe is considered a reasonable time, to restore an exhausted soil. This land is a sandy loam with a clay subsoil, and is well adapted for corn. The first crop planted ten years ago was the speckled pea, which is a quick maturing pea, but the crop failed to grow for the want of fertility in the soil, receiving no application of fertilizers. The crop, what there was, was mowed under in the fall, and the next spring was planted with the Unknown pea, and fertilized with 25 pounds of muriatic acid, and 100 pounds of phosphate of lime. There was a fair crop of peas, and in the fall the vines were turned under and the land seeded to oats. The next spring the land was planted to corn with an application of 50 pounds of muriatic acid, and 200 pounds of phosphate of lime to the acre, half broadcast and the other in drill. The corn was a fair crop considering the dry weather we had that year. To carry out a description of the growth of the different crops during the ten years. There has been a corn crop, a cotton crop, also the same season a crop of peas, and in the corn rows with the exception of this year, but would have been but the weather being dry and during a severe storm on the last day of July the corn was badly blown down. There has been an application of potash and acid with every crop but the first pea crop, using more or less of the crop required, but not a pound of nitrogen, only what the peas have furnished. The present corn crop was planted the first week in May and received an application of 100 pounds of muriatic acid, and 300 pounds of phosphate of lime. The land was laid off in rows 5 feet 8 inches, and the corn planted not quite 3 feet apart, and cultivated on a level. It has never looked but the darkest of green since it came up, showing to me conclusively that the crop was getting all the nitrogen from the soil that was needed and in an available shape. This land must have been perfectly void of nitrogen at first and there was no organic matter in the soil, and as the different crops have been growing better every year, I give the cow peas the credit. I think this year the yield would have been one-fourth more, if there had been more precipitation in the fore part of July, yet it will thrive per acre the average yield of potatoes, and the yield of corn by experiment.

It has been cow peas, in vines and an acre of the following fertilizer ingredients: Nitrogen, 117 pounds; phosphoric acid, 26 pounds; potash, 81 pounds. It would seem by this that cowpeas ought to furnish the nitrogen for a corn crop, as corn contains only 80 pounds grown on one acre. It is not altogether the question of how much plant food there is in the pea crop, turned under, but the amount of humus and organic matter furnished to the soil, in a much cheaper way than by the use of stable manure, and I here notice that we cannot have in this climate too much humus in the soil, to retain all the moisture that we can during the dry spells between the rain falls. By this experiment, I have come to the conclusion that farmers can reclaim their worn out fields in a cheaper way than by the use of stable manure, and without the use of cotton seed or meal, which should be fed out to fatten stock, and the local markets furnished with good prime beef.

We often hear of nations banding down to coming generations great national debts to pay off. Have the majority of farmers of the South ever thought what a debt they are handing down to the coming generations of farmers, by impoverishing the soil by the one crop system, and regardless of any system of crop rotation? As the average farmer does not have the stable manure, the next best practicable method for him to practice is to follow a rotation of such crops, as will give his soil all the vegetable matter that is necessary to retain moisture, and with the corn crop moisture is the main thing on our uplands in Georgia? as to the rotation each farmer must follow out his own plan, according to his means and the adaptation of his lands. Now I often read in the agricultural papers inquiries from farmers asking how to restore their worn out fields. I say to you this, that you can take your worn out fields and with proper cultivation and deeper plowing, with cow peas to furnish the nitrogen and potash and phosphoric acid to make the cow peas grow, you can restore your exhausted soil to paying crop conditions in ten years.

I write this article to show what can be done here in Georgia on worn out lands, and to set farmers to thinking, and show them how to overcome the fertilizer question; take your fertilizer bills for the last ten years and see what nitrogen has cost you, and you will then see how much you could have saved by growing the legume crops. There are thousands of acres here in Georgia like the land that I have described in this article, worn out cotton fields that do not pay for cultivation

under the present system of farming that has been going on here for years. These lands should be reclaimed and made to produce paying crops, by rotation and diversified farming, or else we shall leave to the coming generations a fearful legacy. C. W. MORRILL.

Macon, Ga.

MR. HENRY NEILL AGAIN.

A very pretty controversy is going on just now between Mr. Henry Neill, the famous cotton expert of New Orleans, and Mr. John Hyde, the chief statistician of the Government Department of Agriculture. Mr. Neill is easily the best known and most important private cotton expert in the country, and his views may be said to be controlling upon the English buyers of this staple. He has been out for several months with a prediction of another enormous cotton crop, based chiefly upon the favorable weather which, he declares, the growing crop has received. The data of this character and the general crop conditions reported by the government are not nearly as favorable as that given by Mr. Neill, although the government has made no definite estimate of the crop, as Mr. Neill has. A long letter of last year, written by Mr. Hyde to a firm of cotton merchants here, controverting in detail Mr. Neill's statements, chiefly those referring to the amount of rainfall in the cotton belt. To this Mr. Neill has replied in a second proclamation.

People in the cotton trade are naturally greatly interested in the dispute. If the crop turns out to be a short one there will be a big rise in prices, while if there is another bumper crop prices will probably recede. From the fact that the price of cotton has risen decidedly already we infer that the general opinion of the trade leans in Mr. Hyde's favor. Mr. Hyde receives support also in the movement of the cotton plantations to the coast and interior cities, it being much below that of last year. On the other hand, Mr. Neill and his friends maintain that an immense quantity of cotton has been picked and that the Southern planters are holding it back for more money. Some day, they say, cotton will come out with a rush.

We feel that we may not improperly allude at this time to certain convictions that we have heretofore freely expressed concerning Mr. Neill and his prophecies. It is exceedingly unfortunate for any one business that the views of any one man have come to exercise a predominant influence over its various fluctuations and vicissitudes. We do not think we exaggerate in stating that such is the influence exercised in the cotton trade by Mr. Neill. In some way—which is not altogether explained by the fact that he has been several occasions Mr. Neill has been very lucky in his crop. He has been an immense quantity of cotton has been picked and that the Southern planters are holding it back for more money. Some day, they say, cotton will come out with a rush.

Now, while we wish to state most emphatically that we have never been a syllable spoken against Mr. Neill's integrity and that we believe him to be an absolutely honest man, yet it is obvious that any such position as he occupies in the cotton trade is very uncomfortable to an honest man to be in. It certainly imposes upon him strenuous obligations of reticence and extreme care. Indeed, one would think that Mr. Neill would wish to stop issuing crop estimates or would issue them as rarely as possible and at such late dates in the season that they would not work mischief.—N. Y. Sun, Nov. 3.

HOW THE TRUST GOT ITS NAME.

The name trust, which is popularly applied to all the large aggregations of capital, was a somewhat accidental in its origin. It has, however, an appropriate meaning which few persons realize. The managers of every consolidated enterprise, whether based on a contract, a trust agreement, or an actual consolidation, are exercising powers to benefit or injure the public which are analogous to those of a trustee. It has been said that all property is, in its wider sense, a trust in behalf of the consumer. But where competition is active, the power of using your business methods to impose high prices on your customer is greatly lessened. It is only in the case of large combinations, says President Hildre in the November Scribner, with their discretionary power for good or evil that the character of the trust reposed by society in the directors of its business enterprises makes itself really and truly felt. With these trusts, as with every other trust that deserves the name, it is hard to provide legislative machinery which will absolutely secure its fulfillment. The ability to handle any trust is the result of a long process of legal and moral education. We cannot make a law which shall remove the right exercise of a discretionary power and prohibit its wrong exercise. But it is possible to modify the existing law in a great many directions, which will have instead of retard the educational process. Thus far most of our statutory regulations have been in the wrong direction. We have attempted to prohibit the inevitable, and have simply favored the use of underhanded and short-sighted methods of doing things which must be done openly if they are to be done well.

Six hundred bushels of onions can be raised on the same land required to produce 200 bushels of potatoes, but the onion crop requires vastly more hand labor and is too often a difficult crop to find a market for.

All the emery used in the world comes from the little island of Naxos, near Greece. As it is one of the hardest substances known, ordinary quarrying tools cannot be used to cut it out.

TRUSTS AND PARTY PLATFORMS.

We have been watching closely the resolutions adopted by political parties with reference to the trust problem. Out of bushels of chaff we find just one grain of wheat and about a peck of chaff with this grain. The one sensible thing we have seen in the platform is this:

"Every trust rests upon a corporation, and every corporation is a creature of law."

The suggestion is then made that the proper method of dealing with trusts is to limit the powers of corporations and hold them to the strict construction of the law. This is the way out and the only way out with safety to the public. It is perfectly silly for politicians to get together and adopt a platform simply denouncing trusts or proposing that if they become dangerous they should be destroyed altogether. The modern trust is not a corporation holding in trust the stocks of other corporations engaged in the same line of business, closing up part of them, and controlling the output of the rest. This is the old form of trust which has been declared illegal. In the modern form the trust is simply a gigantic corporation owning the plants themselves and has been declared to be legal. These large corporations are essential to the business of the country and to destroy them, as some of our politicians foolishly and ignorantly propose to do, would be to cripple the industries of the country and turn back the dial which marks the progress of industrial development twenty-five years. Either we must have the franchise, or we must have the property, of all corporations and thus make them pay the equivalent for immortality and the freedom of the individual from liability for corporate debts, or else we must become socialists and the people themselves as a people must own these corporations.

As we see it, there is no other solution of the trust problem. The socialistic way that is likely to pass over the country with all its risk to property, to free institutions, and to life itself, has its source and power not in those who preach socialism but in the greed and avarice which leads to the formation of trusts and to the ignorance and cowardice of the politicians who think the problem can be solved by mere denunciation. We must either limit the powers of corporations and thus make them the servants instead of the masters of the common people, or else the people must become the trust and own the great enterprises which furnish manufactured products, transportation and distribution. Should we go on another quarter of a century as we are doing and have been doing, the corporations will wipe out the individual in all lines of manufactures and distribution as it has already wiped out the individual in transportation. The corporations will then by combinations of interest have the labor and the consumer entirely at their mercy and this means revolution, financial, social and political.

There are lines in which public ownership is possible. It is possible for the city to own the street railways, the gas factories, the lighting plants, as it is possible for the nation to own the postoffice, the telegraph, and possibly even railroads, but to talk about the public owning factories and mines is to talk nonsense, and yet if things go on as they have been doing and political conventions are, as now, apparently in any study to the question, but are simply passing resolutions to catch votes and pander to interests or prejudices, even the most honest of men will be tempted. The plain, simple and direct way is to tax the franchises of corporations as an equivalent for immortality and freedom from liability for corporate indebtedness and to compel publicity as in the case of national banks; in short, for the state and national governments to apply to all corporations for pecuniary profit the same principle that has been applied to successfully for thirty years to national banks. This requires no amendment to the constitution of the States or the United States. It is simple justice. It means a lowering of taxation, both State and national. It means prosperity. It means practical co-operation. It means the ability to dispose of all its stocks and bonds to the public, who will thus find a safe investment for surplus capital. Unless politicians become statesmen and give serious study to this trust problem, it is likely to involve us in more trouble than superficial thinkers yet dream of.—Wallace's Farmer.

The supply of white oak timber in this country, used extensively and almost exclusively for shipbuilding of the most durable kind, is becoming exhausted. A report received at the Navy Department from an expert who is investigating the subject says the material in Ohio has become scarce, and no number of equal quality is to be found in any other State. Every year he says, from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 feet of this timber is shipped to Quebec, and thence to Liverpool, where it is used by British shipbuilders. It is the general opinion that within ten years there will be no available white oak timber in Ohio. The naval constructors say this presents a serious situation, although it is not so calamitous as it would be were ours not now a steel navy. Still, we use the white oak in the construction of small boats, and to a limited extent in the decking of warships.

There are about forty varieties of goldenrod growing in America. To the mau who is all business they are weeds and a pasture pest alone. To him who has a little foolish sentimentality in his make up they come in all their golden beauty to decorate the field and fence corner. One may cut the garden of his best floral products and yet utterly fail to secure, from our standpoint, so choice and delicate a floral treasure as is the bouquet of wild flowers picked by roadside, in pasture land and by timber edge as laden orchards, harvest moons and shortened days proclaim that the harvest is past and the summer ended.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES.

Home Cookies.—Cream together a cup of sugar and three-quarters of a cup of butter, beat into this two well whipped eggs and a gill of sweet milk. Sift a cup and a half of flour twice with a sifter and add to the creamed butter and sugar with a half teaspoonful of baking powder and pinch of salt. Stir these into the water and keep adding flour until you have a dough stiff enough to roll out. Roll thin, cut into round cakes and bake.

Egg Jumbles.—Cream a cup of butter with two of sugar. Beat six eggs light, stir into them a small cup of milk and add them to the creamed butter and sugar with a half teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a little boiling water. Stir in enough sifted flour to make a dough that can be easily rolled out. Lay upon a floured pastry board and roll very thin. Cut into rounds, sprinkle with sugar, and bake.

White Drop Cakes.—Into the stiffened whites of six eggs beat a cupful of fine powdered sugar and a half-cupful of flour sifted with a teaspoonful of baking powder. Beat for a minute, drop on buttered paper and bake.

Sour Milk Cakes.—Cream a half-cup of butter with a cup and a half of granulated sugar, then beat in three well whipped eggs. Beat for five minutes before stirring in one cup of lopped milk and a quarter of a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a teaspoonful of hot water. Now add two heaping cups of flour (sifted) and stir just enough to thoroughly mix with the batter. Bake in small tins.

Currant Cakes.—Stir one cup of butter into two of sugar and rub to a cream. To this add six beaten eggs, a half a pint of sweet milk and a half teaspoonful each of cinnamon and grated nutmeg. Beat all thoroughly; add lightly three cups of flour that have been sifted twice with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and last of all, stir in two cups of currants well dredged with flour. Bake in small tins and when done sprinkle the cakes with powdered sugar.

Huckleberry Tea Cakes.—A half cup of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, three eggs, a cup of milk, a half cup of huckleberries dredged with flour, two cups of flour sifted twice with a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder. Cream butter and sugar, add the beaten eggs, the milk, flour and lastly, the berries. Bake in small tins in a quick oven, and when done split the cakes, butter, and serve immediately.

A NAME OF NAMES.

"One thing is certain," an affianced maid announced, with decision, on the eve of her wedding, "my husband shall never call me 'Mamma.' He may call me Clara, or Mrs. Richard, or even 'Say,' but I shall never be called 'Mamma.' It is a ridiculous, impertinent name." We mamma who heard her only smiled, and answered nothing at all, for each of us remembered that she was young, and that there was many, many things that she did not know. She did not know that when the sweet heart had changed to the wife, and the wife to the mother, there comes a wonderful first time. That first time she feels the downy head nestling under her chin; that first time that she feels the restless pat, pat of little feet as she vainly tries to prison them in her hand; she learns then that her life has burst into a new and wonderful fullness. In her heart there is kindled the first love, and the intense that arises from it glorifies the whole nature and helps her in an ever widening mantle. Then in the dim light she sees bending over her the one that she loves best of all, and she reaches out her hand to him, to draw him near, that he, too, may come within the enchanted circle; that he, too, may breathe the sacred incense, and be warmed by the heavenly fire. Laying his hand in hers they look together into the new little face, but no word comes to express the strange sweet feelings that are surging through them both until, bending close to her, he softly whispers, "Mamma."

It is a baptism. All the sweet, intangible things that have been held in that word. The world may seem with mamma, but the name that she has new and sacred meaning. Other names have been given in the giving and in the taking, but nothing so tender, so strong, so sweet as this, and her whole being goes out in a silent promise to live up to the sacredness of that name.—Charlotte W. Eastman in the October Woman's Home Companion.

The dwelling houses at Johannesburg in the Transvaal, are almost all of iron; galvanized and corrugated iron sides and roofs, the newer and better ones lined inside with brick, and they have brick partitions. The old iron houses are lined with sun-dried mud or "dagga" on the inside. The rooms immediately below the roofs are rather hot and summer and cold in winter. As a rule all ordinary stores, warehouses and mine buildings have all wooden framework and iron sides and roofs. The dwelling houses for white employees and workmen, if brick, have the walls hard finished. There are no native woods in that part of South Africa available for building purposes, and therefore every piece is imported. Small pieces of the hard and crooked native woods are only used for mine poles and fence poles. Every telegraph and telephone pole in South Africa is of iron and imported.

A Persian cat which steals pigeons' eggs furnishes the latest correspondent of the London Field says that his cat seizes a high garden wall, turns a neighbor's pigeons off their nests, takes the eggs in its mouth, makes a safe journey back, and lays them at its master's feet. The writer adds: "At this moment I have two on my office desk, brought in today. On examining the eggs, I find two small holes in each shell, made by the cat's teeth to facilitate easy and safe carriage; beyond this the eggs are intact. Although there are many young pigeons in the cote, some unable to fly, the cat never in any way attempts to touch them."

The world's greatest marble quarry is in the State of Vermont.

FARMING IN EUROPE AND IN AMERICA.

Each nation has something to learn of other nations, as each farmer has something to learn of his neighbor. Europe is greatly interested in our various experiments and in our agricultural bureau, and our agents are carefully observing the improvements going on abroad.

Prof. W. M. Hayes, who has been in Europe this summer observing the agricultural schools abroad, says:

"Germany is far ahead of us in forestry schools and in a sensible forestry system. Her great Forestry School at Eberswalde, in the pine regions north of Berlin, and the forests managed by its professors, are so well developed that our young men should go there to complete their forestry education. Germany's other experiment stations are each much narrower in their scope than ours, but some of them are doing good work. At Bremen, for instance, there is a station devoted wholly to the study of peat lands."

Comparing our agricultural schools with those of Europe, the professor says:

"We have more money and improvement is going on at a more rapid rate here. In some things a few of the older institutions have done more, but we are ahead in most things, and our organization is on a broader plan, so we shall soon leave them far behind. America's experiment stations and colleges are building up such a vast science of agriculture as has not been dreamed of elsewhere. Our colleges each have several directors of experiments, while in Europe each has only one director or assistants."

Of the development of the sugar beet Prof. Hayes says:

"The breeding of sugar beet seed is the most scientific breeding done in the world. Sugar beets now contain more than twice as much sugar per acre as forty years ago. One firm employs two hundred people for two months in the winter analyzing mother beets for the next year's seed crop."

This is interesting in itself, and it shows, moreover, what may be done with other crops; with cotton, with wheat, with corn, with berries, tomatoes and various products of the soil. Furthermore, all this gives new interest and new dignity to life on the farm. The world must be fed and fed each generation more abundantly. To do this work well the farmer must put his mind as well as his strength into his work, and try each year to show some advance in knowledge.

CITY AND FARM WIVES.

By way of advice to overworked city women, Mrs. William King, a well known writer, and busy Sunday School and missionary worker, says:

"For good, wholesome, genuine rest, give me a visit to some hospitable, roomy home. To wake in the early morning and look out on a quiet farm yard is the most restful feeling one can experience. Persons living in the country get so accustomed to these scenes that they are like a great many of them that are new every morning, and so it is with those living in the city—those things that most impress a city visitor are nothing to them."

For the farm-wife an occasional little trip to the city, when her husband goes to sell his crop and buy winter supplies, is advisable. This periodical journey of the farm-wife in the city, and of the city woman in the country, makes each acquainted with the joys and hardships of the other, keeps each from falling into nets, and broadens the vision of each. Each will borrow from the other some bit of knowledge or quality of character that will enable and help her to keep her home better. The time for the city woman's annual visit to the country has passed, if we except Thanksgiving, when so many city folks flock to the farmstead. But during fall and the early winter, a farmer usually takes his trip to town, and we suggest to him, the children and "mother" herself, that a little sum of money be set aside, if possible, for "mother" to go with "father." It will be a good investment; "mother" will come back better qualified to carry another year's work along cheerily and intelligently. If husband and children urge the trip, Mother, take it; do not let a false economy interfere; it is that you hush up against the outside world now than and see how other wives and mothers do things.

Diversified farming pays anywhere. The Aiken Journal and Review tells of this success in the sandy country:

Mr. D. H. Taylor, of Windsor, a one-armed farmer, deserves a great deal of praise and credit for his successful management of his farm. He has almost entirely abandoned the raising of cotton and instead has turned his attention to food products, such as upland rice, corn, peas, sugar cane, and chufas. The latter is a good food, and he claims for it that there is no other food that will fatten hogs so fast, and make them produce so much lard as does the chufas. He has a few small samples of his rice—some cleaned and ready for the cook and a few specimens as it comes from the field. Both of these are new to the market. Mr. Taylor says he has made more than his family can consume.

This is what is said by a dealer who has had many years of experience at one of the greatest horse markets of the country:

"Never in the history of horse raising was there a wider difference between plugs and good horses. Farmers must give as much thought to the selection of both dam and sire as they do to the breeding of cattle and other live stock. A coach horse that will bring \$300 is as easily raised as a plug that will bring but \$45. Such a horse is useful on the farm until the time when he is ready for the market, and can be used both in the plow and on the wagon. In case he lacks the style or action necessary to bring a fancy price, he is still a general purpose horse and will bring a price that will be profitable to the raiser."

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD IN THE BOOM.

One of the strongest evidences of the prosperity which in the past few months has become quite general in this country, and the evidence that is most commendable, is the fact that this fall almost all the schools and colleges report a largely increased number of students. We note with more pleasure this manifestation of the possession of money to spend, among the people, than any other. We hope that there will be no falling off in this attendance, when the wire edge of the boom is off; but we do not doubt that in a year or two the crest of the wave of "good times" will have passed and a reaction set in that will be very depressing.

We are not "prophets of evil" and have no sympathy with calamity howlers, but it is far better to learn by experience and not permit ourselves to lose our heads and do extravagant things just because times are better. A boom is a bad thing for any community, and not only individuals but whole towns have met with backslaps, from which it took years to recover, just because when under boom excitement they ran into foolish extravagance. So, while we commend the extra spending of money in good times, that is used for the education of sons and daughters, we would certainly discourage the reckless use of money, just because it has become somewhat easier to get. And above all we caution every one not to buy things for which he has to go in debt. Many a man has been bankrupted who in the excitement of prosperity bought land and other property, for which he could only pay a part cash, and went into debt for the balance. Thousands and thousands of people who did this a few years ago, finally had their property sacrificed to pay the unpaid balances and lost every dollar of cash they had paid.

The wise man who wants to buy either real estate or any other property, will not invest during a wave of prosperity, but will hold on to his money, and save all he can while prices are high, and then when the inevitable drop comes he can buy at far lower prices. No doubt this sort of advice is calculated to "throw cold water" on the apparent good times now prevailing; but it is far better to be conservative and never do things under the stimulus of excitement that becomes so contagious and hard to resist when a general industrial and commercial revival sets in. The country is still full of financial wrecks, individual and corporate, that resulted from the great boom of the last decade, and the way things are shaping themselves, it looks as if there is going to be an opportunity for a great many more to be added to the list.—Tri-State Farmer and Gardener.

THE PRODUCTION OF INDIGO.

The cultivation of the indigo-yielding plants, including the preparation of the indigo color, is one of the chief industries of Northern India, and has been so from very early times. At the present time this great and ancient industry, in which is invested British capital to the extent of many millions sterling, and which finds employment for hundreds of thousands of natives and many Europeans, is threatened with extinction. In 1860 the official production of alizarin, the substance used in the production of turkey red, from anthracine—this latter a product of the distillation of coal tar—destroyed the trade in madder, and now it looks very much as if natural indigo would be ousted from its long-held position of supremacy, and an artificial product, the triumph of the organic chemist, will take its place. Moreover, this artificial indigo is absolutely identical with the plant-produced indigo. A famous and important firm of color-makers, to-wit, the Badische Anilin und Soda-Fabrik, (Baden Aniline and Soda Factory) of Ludwigshafen on the Rhine in Germany, has introduced artificial indigo in the highest state of purity, and at a price which admits of its successful competition with the best qualities of natural indigo.

This remarkable achievement is the outcome of a discovery of the late Professor Hermann, of Zurich, carried out as a commercial success by the perseverance and skill of the chemists of this great firm. The chief ingredient in this artificial production of indigo is naphthalene. This substance is one of the chief products of the distillation of coal tar, and in the form of various derivatives is largely used in the production of dyestuffs. At the present moment the indigo planters fully recognize the danger to which their industry is exposed by the introduction of this product. If the artificial indigo can be produced at a lower price than natural indigo, then the Indian indigo trade will be a thing of the past. We cannot regard such a possibility without mingled feelings. Speaking as a chemist, the success of such an artificial product must be looked upon as a great and glorious achievement, but one cannot help wishing that the price of such a victory was not so great; for the ruin of the indigo plantations cannot be otherwise regarded than as a national calamity, which may have the most far-reaching consequences, but the indigo growers, if they can improve their methods of manufacture so as to obtain better yields of color, will be able also to reduce their prices, and in this question of cost is the kernel of the nut, which the champions of artificial and natural indigo have to crack.

Sallie Joy White when telling young cooks how to prepare various delicacies for invalids in October Woman's Home Companion gives this simple recipe for egg-nog: "To make an egg-nog you will separate the white and yolk of one egg, and beat the yolk with one tablespoonful of sugar until it is light and creamy; add to this one half cupful of milk, then beat the white of the egg to a foam and stir it lightly into the beat yolk, sugar and milk. It is a delicious and nourishing drink. Try it yourself some day when you are hungry and tired even if you don't call yourself an invalid, and see if I am not right."